

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
DHMH Secretary Josh Sharfstein

February 21, 2014

Baltimore County Targets Infant Health with Online Discussions



For free info for you and your baby

Text **BABY**
to **511411**



The Baltimore County Department of Health has two video interviews posted online about safe sleep practices and **Text4baby**. These segments are a part of the action steps for improving infant mortality in Baltimore County. Dr. Linda Grossman, M.D., Bureau Director for Clinical Services, discusses the

importance of focusing on infant care. Recommendations about safe sleeping practices have changed substantially in the past 20 years and following current safe sleep guidelines substantially reduces the risk of sleep related deaths. Dr. Grossman recommends Text4baby as a useful tool for pregnant women, new parents, and those close to them. This free resource provides tips via text that promote health during each stage of pregnancy.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view the video interviews.

View the **SHIP measure** and **tools** for reducing infant deaths.

View the **SHIP measure** and **tools** for reducing sudden unexplained infant deaths (SUIDS)

St. Mary's County Drug Summit for Parents



On Friday, March 7, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Hall, the St. Mary's County Opioid Overdose Prevention Workgroup is hosting "Drug Summit for Parents: An Open Discussion about Pills and Heroin in St. Mary's County - Parents - The Anti-Drug." The Drug Summit targets families with teenagers and young

adults across southern Maryland to address heroin and pill related overdoses. Join the discussion about pathways to use, how drugs are accessed, how various drugs are used, early identification strategies, techniques to discuss drug abuse with young adults, and treatment and recovery services.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) for more information about the St. Mary's County Overdose Prevention Plan

View the **[SHIP measure](#)** and **[tools](#)** for reducing emergency department visits related to behavioral health conditions.

Frederick County Develops Plan for TB Prevention and Control



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

In 2012, there were 224 **[reported cases](#)** of tuberculosis (TB) in Maryland. One of the difficulties related to TB control is the potential for public panic. In light of the recent case of TB involving a high school student in Montgomery County, Frederick County has developed a new plan in the event that a case of TB is reported in the school system. The Frederick County Public School system and the Frederick County Health Department have coordinated their responses to maintain the patient's privacy, test and notify those who may be at risk, and follow up with observed treatment to clear any infections. This has been achieved through the development of a text system to alert students and teachers without drawing attention to a particular student or staff member's possible exposure.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Maryland TB Guidelines for Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis.

Click [here](#) for statistics about cases of TB in Maryland.

View **[SHIP measure](#)** and **[tools](#)** for increasing treatment completion rate among tuberculosis patients.

Maryland eCare Expands Telemedicine in Rural Communities



Telemedicine is expanding in the state with Maryland eCare, a group of independent hospitals working to improve patient care by sharing resources and expanding critical care services in rural Maryland. The Maryland eCare system was funded with a \$3 million grant from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield to support the cost of technology used to provide care remotely. Intensivists are physicians who specialize in the care and treatment of patients in intensive care. According to community hospitals, telemedicine allows critically ill patients to be treated close to home. Small, rural hospitals that are not equipped to care for all critically ill patients use telemedicine intensivists to help triage and transfer patients.

Click [here](#) for more information about Maryland eCare.

Click [here](#) for more information about telemedicine in Maryland.

2014 State Loan Repayment Program

Maryland's State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) application cycle will be open from March 1 to April 15 to offer loan repayment assistance to physicians who practice in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The award amount is up to \$25,000 per year for a 2 year obligation. In order to be eligible to apply for the loan repayment program, providers must:

- Be a primary care physician,
- Be a United States citizen or U.S. National,
- Have a medical degree and valid unrestricted license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland,
- Be employed full-time at an eligible practice site,
- Have no existing or un-served obligation to any other loan repayment program, and
- Have existing higher education loan debt in good standing

Click [here](#) for more information about applying for the State Loan Repayment Program.